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For Immediate Release

May 31, 2016

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Cochise County Library District Awarded Two Prestigious Grants

The Cochise County Board of Supervisors is pleased to announce two grants from the Arizona State Library have been awarded to two Library District Branches.

The Portal Myrtle Kraft Library has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$19,075 for their program, "Let's Make: Creativity in a Box!" Community members of all ages will benefit through increased access to learning as they use these "maker boxes" at various sites around the county or check them out for use at home. The activities will vary and may include digital photography and movie making, robotics, crafts, writing, windowsill gardening, jewelry making, storytelling, web page design, etc. The goal of this project is to develop a series of activities and events that empower learners to be at their center of their own learning and to develop critical thinking, collaboration, communication, design, and self-direction skills.

The Elfrida Library has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$16,850 for educational and personal development sessions. Working in partnership with the Cochise College Center of Lifelong Learning, workshops will be conducted at no cost to the public. These courses will include job and employment skills, computer classes, and English as a second language workshops. The grant will fund the purchase of computer desks and chairs, permanent materials for the library collection, and a projector and screen. The grant will also fund a movie license and the purchasing of family friendly movies in order to continue to offer movie nights throughout the year for patrons.

"I am proud of the work accomplished by all of our dedicated staff at our rural libraries. These grants are highly competitive and the awards will enable us to foster activities and learning experiences for residents throughout the entire County that improve quality of life," stated Lise Gilliland, Cochise County Library District Director.

In 2016, the Arizona State Library received about \$3.2 million under the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), which is administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. More than \$800,000 was awarded to libraries in Arizona. The remaining funds are used to support statewide services, including family literacy and reading programs, electronic databases, digital government initiatives, continuing education and other programs. The State Library is overseen by Secretary of State Michele Reagan.

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